

***SOUTHEAST AREA AND YAKUTAT AREA SUBSISTENCE,
PERSONAL USE, AND SPORT SALMON AND OTHER NON-
GROUND FISH FINFISH (21 proposals)***

Southeast Subsistence Salmon

PROPOSAL 135

5 AAC 01.720. Lawful Gear and Gear Specifications, 5 AAC 01.760. Redoubt Bay and Lake Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management Plan.

Only allow for the use of seine gear in the Redoubt Bay subsistence fishery when the escapement is projected to be greater than 40,000 sockeye salmon.

5 AAC 01.720. Lawful gear and gear specifications

Fish may be taken by gear listed in 5 AAC 01.010(a) except as may be restricted under the terms of a subsistence fishing permit and except as follows:

(1) in District 13, Redoubt Bay, gillnet [OR SEINE] gear may not be used to take salmon in any waters of the bay closed to commercial salmon fishing;

Section 5 AAC 01.760 - Redoubt Bay and Lake Sockeye Salmon Fisheries Management Plan

(5) in addition to the provisions of (4) of this subsection, when the projected total escapement level of sockeye salmon is greater than 40,000 fish, the commissioner may

(A) open portions of Redoubt Bay to a commercial fishery on sockeye salmon returning to Redoubt Lake;

(B) issue community subsistence permits under the provisions of (e) of this section.

(C) allow the subsistence use of seine gear in the waters of Redoubt Bay north (seaward) of a line approximately 100 yards from the base of the falls as marked by ADF&G regulatory markers;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal is to allow the use of seine gear for subsistence fishing in Redoubt Bay when the projected escapement of sockeye salmon is over 40,000 fish. Currently, seine gear can only be used in the outer bay, where fish are too spread out for it to be effective. Recent escapements have consistently exceeded the escapement goal range of 7,000 – 25,000 fish; and have been over 40,000 fish for the last seven years. The most recent record escapement of 153,000 fish has led to concerns about reduced productivity from overescapement. Currently, the majority of sockeye are taken using dipnets at the base of the falls, where the limited space does not provide enough fishing power for an effective and efficient harvest. While there may be concerns with gear conflicts, the use of seine gear in years with large returns would actually reduce conflicts by providing for a more effective means to quickly harvest sockeye, reducing the time spent fishing. The proposed regulation would bar seines from the area near the falls to prevent direct conflict with dipnetters.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The proposal was developed in a Regional Advisory Council meeting at the request of a member from the Sitka area.

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Regional Advisory Council

(HQ-F24-015)

PROPOSAL 136

5 AAC 01.745. Subsistence bag and possession Limits; Annual Limits.

Increase sockeye salmon possession and annual limits at Basket Bay.

5 AAC 01.745. Subsistence bag and possession limits; annual limits

(h) In the Juneau Management Area, in waters open to subsistence salmon fishing under a household subsistence salmon fishing permit, the possession and annual limits for salmon per household are as follows:

- (A) District 12: in the following waters, the following possession and annual limits apply:
 - (i) Basket Bay: the possession limit is **20** [15] sockeye salmon, with an annual limit of **40** [30] sockeye salmon;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Basket Bay (Kook Lake) is an important source of sockeye for subsistence users from Angoon, Hoonah, and other nearby communities. The current possession and annual limits for sockeye at Basket Bay are 15 fish possession / 30 fish annual, which is lower than most other systems of similar size in the area. A stock assessment program operated between 2005-2007 and 2010-2017 showed that escapement to Kook Lake was stable at higher subsistence harvest levels than have been seen in recent years. The current harvest limits, especially the 15 fish possession limit, make it necessary for subsistence users to make several trips across Chatham Strait to meet their sockeye needs. The proposed harvest limit increase would allow users to meet their sockeye needs more efficiently with less risk and use of gas, time, and effort.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. The proposal was developed by the Council following public testimony requesting an increase in the harvest limits at Basket Bay

PROPOSED BY: Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (HQ-F24-014)

PROPOSAL 137

5 AAC 01.745. Subsistence bag and possession limits; annual limits.

Increase the possession limit of sockeye salmon for Basket Bay from 15 to 30 sockeye salmon.

Modify sockeye possession limits for Basket Bay as follows;

- (h)(1)(A)(i) Basket Bay: the possession limit is 30 sockeye salmon, with an annual limit of 30 sockeye salmon;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The remoteness of the area combined with high fuel prices and rough weather in Northern Chatham Strait make it difficult for subsistence harvesters to access Basket Bay. Low possession limits force users to make multiple trips to meet their subsistence sockeye harvesting needs. Increasing the possession limit from 15 to 30 sockeye allows subsistence users of the Hoonah, Tenakee, and Angoon communities opportunity to harvest their limit in fewer trips, without increasing overall harvest of the Basket Bay stock.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local Fish and Game Advisory Committee? Explain. Hoonah Indian Association - Environmental Department in coordination with staff from the USDA Forest Service, Juneau Ranger District

PROPOSED BY: Hoonah Indian Association

(EF-F24-010)
